

off lead

By Glenn Brownstein

Every year it happens. Approximately one thousand of them converge on the MIT campus, coming from all parts of the country and about 30 other nations. Every year there are the same "Jefferson Math" and "Central High" jackets, the same struggling with more suitcases than anyone could possibly carry, the same getting used to the occasional screech of a passing car and bearded jugglers riding unicycles. There's also the same blank, glassy, "help me" look, the most obvious characteristic of these people.

Yes, R/O week is upon us again, and our serene, peaceful campus is being overrun with a new class of freshmen. During these eleven days the MIT campus is transformed while the incoming class finds places to live, selects an academic program, and settles into a new atmosphere, urged on and aided by a substantial number of upperclassmen here solely to help the newcomers make the difficult, rushed choices. What follows is a day-by-day account of some of the events, sights, and sounds that the elder statesmen take for granted but may have forgotten, and that were most immediate to the Class of 1980.

Thursday, Sept. 2. The campus, virtually deserted the day before, starts to breathe life again. Over 700 freshmen take advantage of the early registration period and check in with the R/O Center, many more than anyone previously estimated. They follow basically the same procedure observed by freshmen at MIT for years. After depositing luggage in the Sala, freshmen walk into the Student Center's West Lounge and face an imposing camera that will take their ID picture. With one "click," that exhausted, bewildered face is recorded, to stare back at its owner for the next four years.

After getting "shot," they pick up a ticket for the freshman picnic (this year a freshman/upperclassman picnic), find out their advisor and seminar assignments, and receive a freshman packet, different for men and women, but a remarkable compendium of everything necessary to turn a lost, bewildered freshman into a knowledgeable, well-adjusted "man/woman about town," *savoir faire* oozing from every pore.

(Please turn to page 3)

"Off Lead" is an occasional feature of The Tech designed to provide a showcase for off-beat, interesting stories on less-than-hard news.

Freshmen fewer than expected

By Mark James

The class of 1980 contains an estimated 1050 freshmen, 50 students smaller than MIT's goal.

According to Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Ken Browning '66 the actual number of students is still uncertain, due to last-minute decisions by some freshmen not to enter.

MIT had decided last year to set the class size at 1100, but a combination of low "yield" (the fraction of admitted students who accept admission), and a high "melt" (the number of freshmen who accept admission but change their minds during the summer), resulted in the 50 student decline, according to the MIT News Office.

The smaller class size will result in less overcrowding in the dormitories than had been planned, according to Browning.

MIT has announced plans to maintain a class size close to 1100 for the next several years in order to increase revenues from tuition.

This is one of the steps being taken by Chancellor Paul E. Gray '54 to help offset recent increases in the amount that operating revenues must be supplemented from unrestricted funds and MIT's endowment.

Last year's freshman class numbered about 1155. The class of '78 entered with around 1025 members.

Black students are here in the largest number ever — 61 — and the class includes 170 women, about the same as last year, but down from the over 200 admitted two years ago.

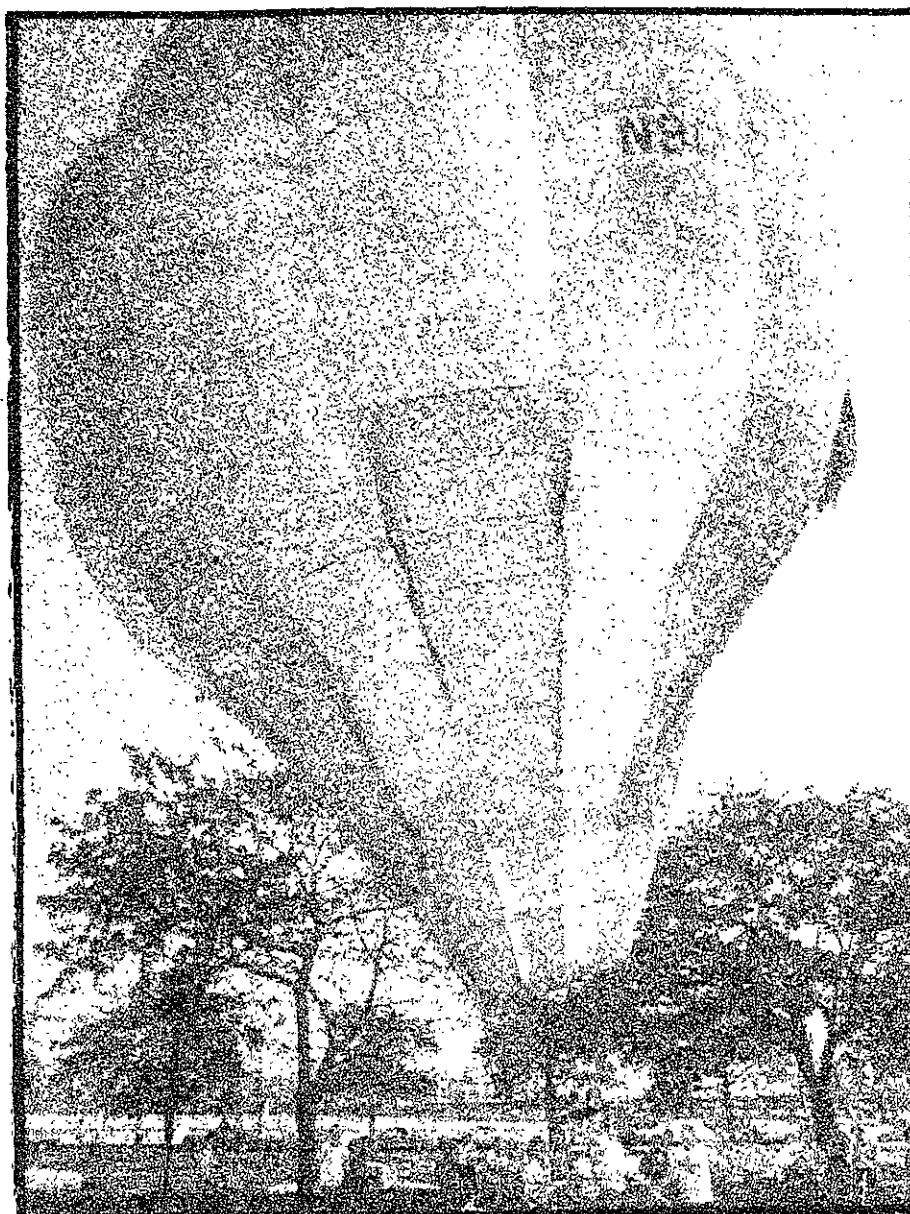
Director of Admissions Peter Richardson '48 said that "We've had some success" at increasing the number of blacks, but he added that "the problem of increasing the number of minority students at MIT is far from solved."

The MIT Black Student Union held a special recruiting drive for black freshmen this year in cooperation with Richardson's office, but the actual effects of this recruitment on the number of blacks has not been determined.

According to Richardson, MIT admitted 2277 out of a total of more than 5000 applicants.

In addition to the entering freshmen, MIT has admitted 147 transfer students as either sophomores or juniors.

Registration for Physical Education will be held in the duPont Gym on Tuesday, September 14 from 8:45am to 12:30pm.



Mark James

The class of 1980 squeezes in

Dorm crowding less severe; most freshmen get first choice

By Mark James

Overcrowding in the dormitories will be less severe than had been predicted last spring, although many freshmen will still be crowded.

According to the estimates of the dormitory room assignments chairmen, the level of crowding will be equal to or below that of the last several years.

The number of women to be assigned to each dormitory was decided in a special Monday night meeting of representatives from dormitories that house women. Men were assigned to the remaining spaces the next morning.

Because some of the coed dormitories needed more women to maintain a reasonable male-female ratio, some women had to be assigned to their second, third, or even lower choice dormitory.

For the first time in recent years McCormick was oversubscribed, receiving 70 applications for 56 spaces. McCormick Room Assignments Chairman Lynn Mortimer attributed the house's popularity this year to well-planned R/O activities and the presence of a large number of upperclasswomen in the dorm during the week.

Baker House was more popular among women this year than last. Baker only needed to admit three second-choice women to reach its total of 24. Burton got only 29 first-choice applications, compared to 48 last year, but still only needed five second-choice freshmen women to fill allotted spaces.

Senior House had 31 first choice women to fill 56 spots and had to take four women who put the dormitory as their seventh choice or lower.

Baker, Burton, and MacGregor Houses were all significantly oversubscribed by men. As in the last several years, Burton was the most popular dormitory for men, with 159 first choices. MacGregor was next with 135, and Baker improved on last year's rush, attracting 121 men.

After the first round of assignment (Please turn to page 2)

Frat rush slow but smooth: IFC reports no violations

By Glenn Brownstein

Although the 1976 fall rush was termed slower than those of previous years, MIT fraternities are fairly close to pledging all the freshmen they want.

According to figures released by the R/O Clearinghouse at 8pm Tuesday, the 31 houses in the Interfraternity Conference (IFC) had 325 of the 385 pledges they were seeking. Doug McLeod '77, IFC Rush Chairman, attributed the somewhat high number of unfilled bids (60) to a growing interest in the dormitories this year.

"The rush was definitely slower than in previous years," McLeod stated. "Many freshmen are waiting for dormitory preferences, and there are definitely more deciding between dorms and frats." McLeod added that he felt it was a good rush overall, and very smoothly run.

"Only 170 freshmen didn't visit any frats at all, and that's about average. On the other hand, more visited two of our houses than last year."

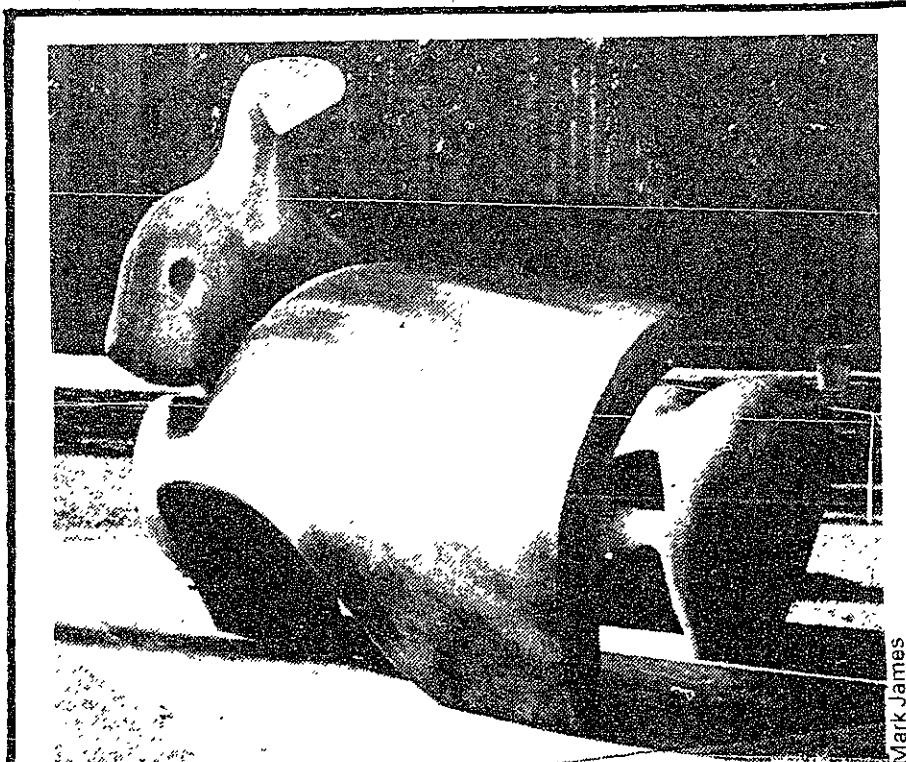
Dave Dobos '77, IFC Judcomm Chairman, reported that there were no major rush violations to be brought up to the Committee, saying that all problems were of a minor magnitude, and that "we were able to solve them quickly, so minor conflicts, usually misunderstandings, didn't flare into major problems."

Dobos termed this year's rush "super clean," adding that he felt it went extremely well, although visits were a little slow on Friday, a situation he felt might have been due to the cold weather. "After Friday, though, we had a lot more freshmen coming through the house [LCA] than we needed."

Both IFC officials praised what they felt was the best cooperation between fraternities they had seen at MIT, both in terms of conducting a smooth rush, and in the lack of serious violations.

Clearinghouse reported Tuesday night that the average MIT freshman visited 3.7 fraternities a total of 9.19 times, the first time this statistic has been available.

(Please turn to page 15)



Has the Easter Bunny taken root in the Great Court seven months early? No, it's simply MIT's newest outdoor art acquisition, Henry Moore's "Reclining Figure," viewed from an intriguing angle.

Mark James

The score after the first day:

Dormitory	1st Choices	Total Assigned	1st Choices Assigned	2nd Choices Assigned
Baker	142	106	103	3
Bexley	15	40	15	5
Burton	188	107	102	5
East Campus	112	123	112	2
MacGregor	135	69	69	
McCormick	70	56	56	
New House	28	79	28	20
Senior House	31	56	31	4
French House	10	8	8	
German House	5	3	3	
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Dorm room priority given to overcrowded freshmen

(Continued from page 1)
ments, 90 freshmen remain in "limbo" awaiting later rounds of assignments. According to Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Ken Browning '66, more crowding could result if the fraternity rush falls short of its goal.

Freshmen who agreed to live in overcrowded rooms received first choice among the dormitories, as part of a plan to deal with the severe overcrowding projected. According to Browning, most of the response came from freshmen who were "trying to get into Burton." There were 18 groups of three that applied for triples, but only 12 triples were available.

The reduction in crowding from the projected level was due to a class 50 persons smaller than planned, and to the formation of a new fraternity (ADP) and an Independent Women's Living Group. This reduction was felt most in Burton. According to Housemaster James Bruce, the house was to have around 35 triples, but will have close to 20 — "less than the previous two years."

Planned crowding in East Campus is also down, according to Powell, from around 40 overcrowded freshmen to about 20. Powell described the crowding

level this year as "normal — as opposed to abnormal [which had been previously expected]."

Last spring, plans had been made to house some freshmen in MacGregor suite lounges. According to MacGregor Room Assignments Chairman Marty Herman '79, these plans have been cancelled.

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Breaking in the freshman class

(Continued from page 1)

This folder of goodies includes an MBTA transit system map, a guide to the MIT libraries, an IM Sports handbook, Experimental

signment (most choose the closer West Campus houses — it rains all day long), picks up a copy of the *Daily Confusion*, the R/O newsletter published every day,

the opening hurdles and not be run down by an APO luggage cart, transporting baggage from a shuttle car downstairs to the Sala for those who came by air.

activity at the Center, lines start to form at the Coop Cashier's Desk for new memberships, at TCA for *Freshman Picturebooks* and *HoToGAMITs*, at Lobdell and the 24-hour Coffeehouse for food, but the TV and pinball rooms remain largely empty. Groups of freshmen crowd the ADP (ΑΔΦ), ESG, and Women's Independent Living Group (WILG) booths, keeping open living group options and finding someone to talk to.

In the evening, the early arrivals discover that the fraternities, with the exception of new ADP and WILG, and reorganized PKT (ΦΚΘ), are closed, and parties on campus are few and far between. The R/O

(Please turn to page 7)

A number of local residents wander by the courtyard, perhaps fearing that the Institute has finally been overrun with crazies

Study Group and Electronic Research Society handouts, room assignment information, an R/O schedule, a UROP Guide, pamphlets from Goodwill Industries, the Student Homophile League, MIT Tutoring, and WTBS, a Sex booklet and "How to Protect Yourself" (women only), a Freshman Advisory Council newsletter, a card to get the freshman a free *HoToGAMIT* 8, and a Campus Patrol Information Digest.

Armed with this comforting digest of information, a freshman gets his temporary dormitory as-

and leaves the Center, not knowing quite where to go, but not worrying that much about it either.

The Alpha Phi Omega (APO) R/O workers are friendly, sometimes overly so, but it's appreciated by the frosh, as the helpfulness of the R/O personnel overcomes the shock of college registration, what with boxes, crates, and folders everywhere in the West Lounge, and a procedure that, while fairly simple, is just another confusing factor in adjusting to a strange atmosphere.

The lucky newcomer will clear

Originally, the shuttle was to have brought freshmen, too, but problems with insurance led the IFC to take this approach, instead. Tomorrow the person shuttle will operate on a severely limited basis, resurrected by unexpected funding, but for now only bags are being carried by the IFC workers. The logistics of the operation are being directed by the MIT UHF Repeater Society, which has set up a walkie-talkie system to station the cars properly. Their activity, on view for all, adds to the frantic pace of the Student Center residents.

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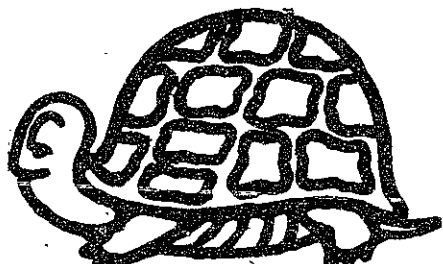
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opinion

Making MIT livable: a freshman primer

By Glenn Brownstein

"Abandon hope all ye who enter here" was what it used to say below the Great Dome on the day of the Freshman Picnic. Those ominous words were missing this year, but you'll be happy to know that they still apply. The trickle of returning upperclassmen not involved with R/O Week will enlighten the freshmen who still need enlightenment: most are starting to learn the truth already, what with the tasks MIT demands of its incoming class.

It's really very simple. Show up Thursday or Friday, take four or five days to find a place to live (in some rare cases you'll even wind up there), pick out an academic program in another two or three days, spend two more days planning out activities and free time (what?), and come in on Registration Day happy, healthy, content, and ready to get your full \$4000 worth of torture.

They say it's hard to get your money's worth any more. It's true in a way: students only had to pay two or three thousand dollars for the same privilege years ago — but after your first 14 on an 8.01 exam, or perhaps a week before finals when you have three exams, two papers, and a term project due, you'll realize that you get more for your money here than you had ever dreamed possible.

Some things are comforting, however. For one thing, don't worry about your living group. Chances are you'll have little trouble getting along with any group of students you decide to live with. And transfers to other groups are possible. For another thing, almost all the freshmen you meet are at least as utterly confused, perplexed and bewildered as you are. If they're not, be careful — they might be transfer students or upperclassmen subversively posing as frosh, or Cambridge urchins caught up in the spirit of R/O Week.

Let's move to the present. Many freshmen are settled in at their places of residence (chosen or otherwise), and have weathered the Academic Midway, a meeting with an advisor, and the usual "Hi, there. What's your name? Oh, where are you from? So, I guess you're interested in physics (or E.E. or biology). Well, this is the best place to go for that. Play any sports? Gee, we could use a new running back for the football team. What sorts of things did you do in high school? How big a school was it? Well, MIT's kind of large, but very friendly and a great place to learn. They say education here is like a drink of water from a fire hose, ha, ha, . . ."

The most important thing to remember here is that while academics will take up much of your time, you will go crazy unless you find other interests. MIT has just enough activities and athletics to give you more things to do than you'd ever have time for. This "sixth school" (the five listed in the catalog are architecture, engineering, science, management, and humanities) can give you more pleasure than anything else on campus, if only because it provides a convenient escape from the academic drudgery. Constant tooling is acceptable only for nurds and pre-meds. Unless the graduate school you plan to attend is one with padded walls, it would be a good idea to find some people with interests similar to yours.

Tonight's midways will give you a chance to explore some of these interests, and it's always a good idea to sample a little of everything. Except for athletics, where it's usually important to attend the first practice, activities generally do not mind whether you join in September or mid-March — the benefits are the same either way.

The MIT administration is fond of saying that anyone accepted here can handle the required academic load. That's true, no matter what you may think next week, next term, or when (if) you graduate. Be practical — don't overload in one narrow subject area, but use your registration flexibility to do some sampling of various courses and subjects. Keep in mind that college is supposed to be enjoyable, not torturous drudgery.

Also plan to get some sleep once in a while. Many professors accept death as a valid excuse for handing in a problem set late, but Institute contracts like commons, room fees, and tuition are pro-rated heavily toward the beginning of the term, and your parents will get almost nothing back if you die or start a long hospital stay after October.

Most of all, have a good time. This may sound incredibly hollow, especially at three o'clock in the morning sometime next week, but MIT can be a very interesting place to spend four years, and for most people it beats working in a gas station. If on the other hand you like that kind of job, try Dining Service — the parallels are remarkable. To the upperclassmen who have craftily avoided reading this column until the first boring Tuesday lecture, you know the story by now, or if you're a senior, you don't care. To the freshmen who now realize that these columns can be put to constructive, time-consuming use, better luck next issue.

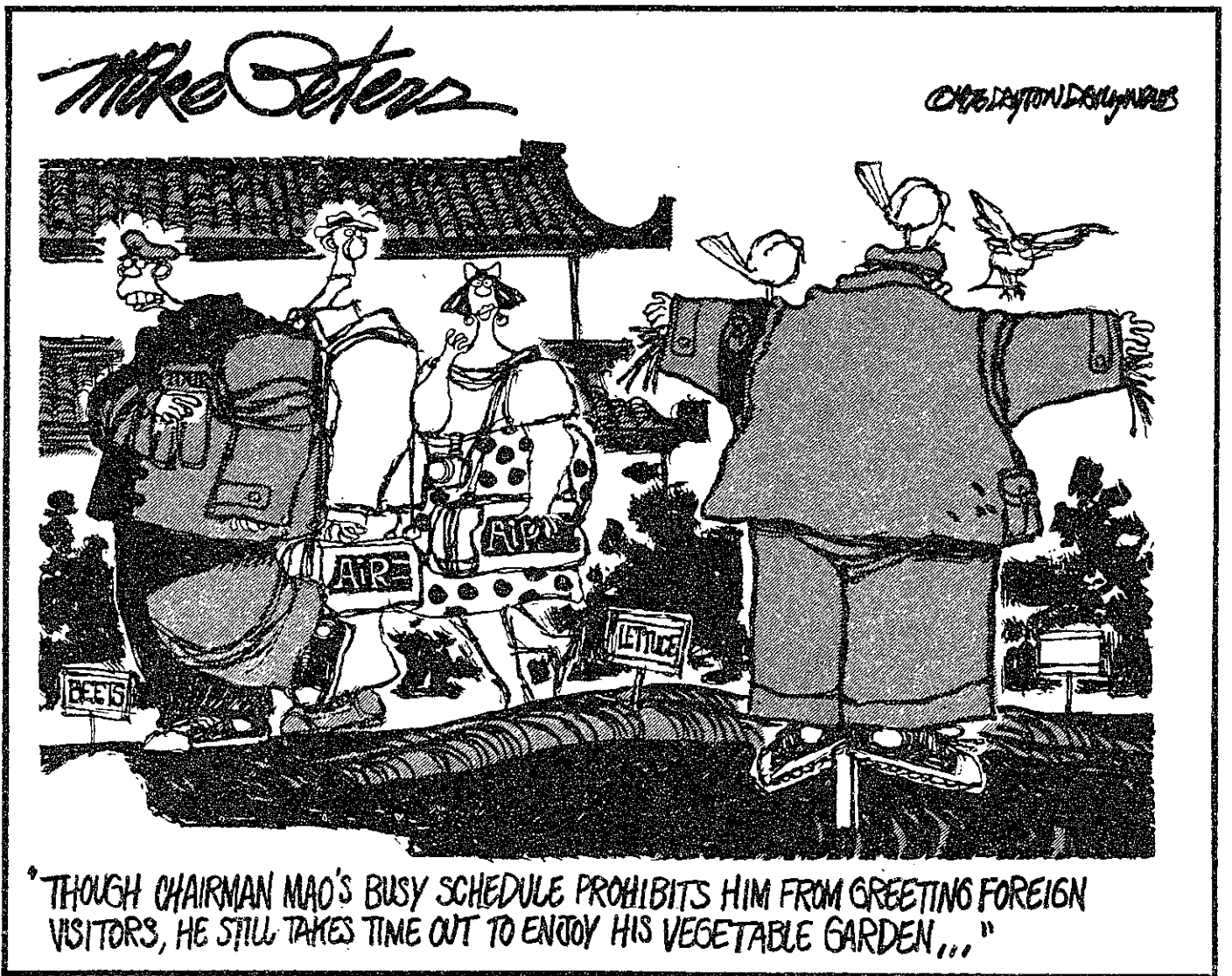
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feedback

Free parking for students

(A copy of this letter was sent to The Tech.)

Dear President Wiesner:

This letter is written on behalf of the Housing & Community Affairs Committee of the Graduate Student Council, regarding the decision of the Academic Council to charge a \$5.00 parking sticker fee for all on-campus parking. It is requested that the decision be modified so as not to include students, or as a minimum, not to include residents.

It is felt that students should not be required to pay this fee because this will just be a further drain on the net funds remaining after deducting tuition and rent. Also, the majority of the student parking is at the extremities of the campus, e.g. the Westgate and Eastgate parking lots, and as such, are far off the main campus complex. Finally, Vice President Stoddard has stated that any fee for parking would not imply any increased responsibility for protection and maintenance of those residence parking lots. In summary, the students have smaller real income this year than in previous years and have the least desirable parking spaces available to them.

Further, residents have even less reason to be required to pay for parking stickers than students have. I spoke with Ms. Susan Smith (tel #: 223-5630) of the

Boston office of the Environmental Protection Agency. I was told that there are NO guidelines by EPA regarding residence parking, and there is certainly no effort being made to reduce residence parking space either in or around Boston. As a result, any reduction in vehicles on-campus due to residents cutting back cannot be counted toward the EPA goal for employers of a 25% reduction in single-occupancy vehicles. Thus, any decision in the number of resident vehicles cannot be cited as an example of MIT's attempt to comply with the EPA guidelines. Also, Vice President Stoddard stated that the fee is supposed to cover the increased cost of administering an MBTA pass program and computerized carpooling. The residents will not benefit from any of these services and hence should not be required

to share the cost.

Some suggestions are as follows: To comply with the EPA guidelines, MIT could reduce the number of on-campus commuter parking spaces by 10-15 percent as of the first of September 1976, at the minuscule cost of typing and distributing a letter to this effect. Then distribute the available parking by department, proportional to the number of commuting employees, and let the department administrators assign parking spaces. If, by doing this, a second parking lot can be closed (the first, Monroe lot is already slated to be closed-Tech Talk, May 12, 1976), the savings in taxes and the salary of one guard will more than compensate for the expected income as a result of the parking sticker fee. Alternatively, the program might be structured so as to become part of existing contracts to MIT for transportation studies (through Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences, and Aeronautics and Astronautics) at no net cost at all.

In summary, it is felt that the students, or at least the residents, should not be required to pay a \$5.00 parking sticker fee. It is hoped that the Academic Council will reconsider the issue.

K. Steven Horlitz
Graduate Student Council
July 28, 1976



UAP: expecting mediocrity

To the Editor:

Shunned by his professors and distraught by the defense contracts in his own Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Phil Moore seized the opportunity for spontaneous combustion at the Freshman Picnic. I will not deal with his objections to certain facets of education at MIT. Mr. Moore, highly respected among Institute intelligentsia has almost certainly placed deadly traps of compelling evidence beneath the camouflage of shallow logic. Instead, I will bypass his attempt at rational thought and deal with his unfortunate choice of a forum. The sad fact is that Phil Moore

used his position as UAP to express his personal opinions at the Freshman Picnic, complete with a captive audience of 1400 people.

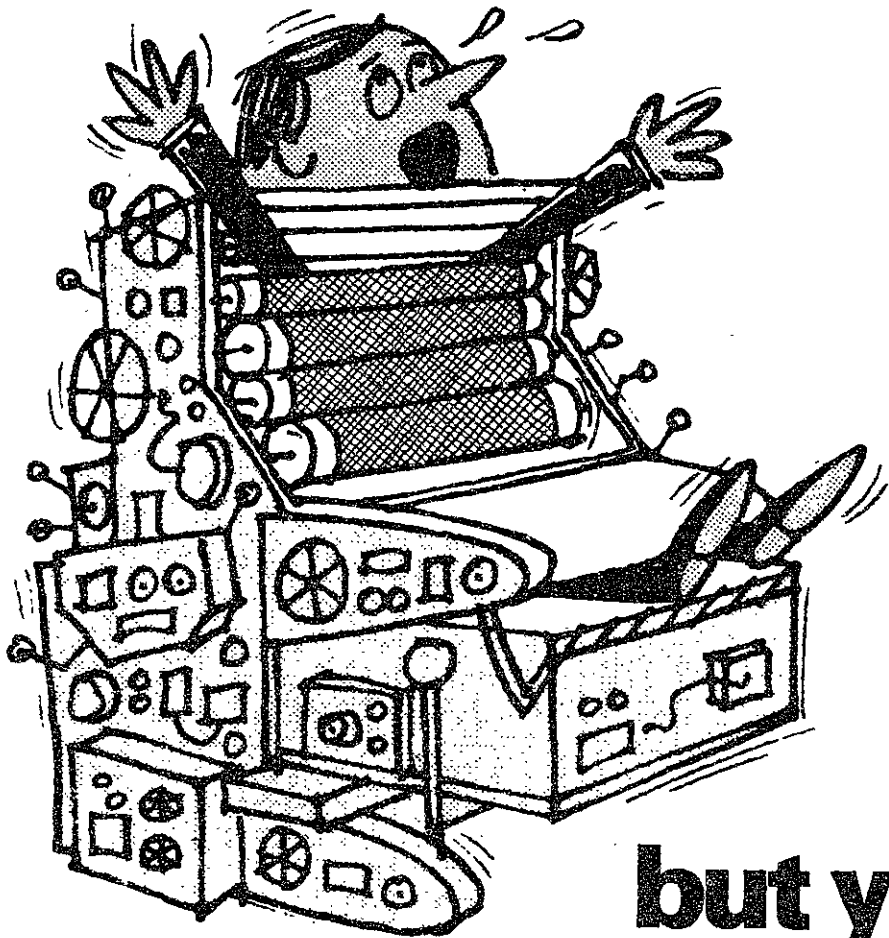
Two issues are important here: first, the simple fact that he took advantage of his position to express purely personal views violates a promise made to the UA General Assembly last spring. One concludes that he is not trustworthy. Second, most of his audience were not in a position to recognize the division between Mr. Moore's personal observations and facts in the real world. This would indicate that he is imprudent. Phil Moore cannot possibly

hope to represent a sizable cross-section of popular thought at MIT if the issue is weightier than describing the perspiration at a Folk Dance Club meeting. He should therefore attempt to be a petty bureaucrat, not a leader, for that is what we expect from our UAP. No one will ever deny him his law school recommendation if he succeeds at mediocrity.

I, for one, would forgive him his trespasses into the realm of rationality, but I sincerely hope that he takes the opportunity to apologize for wasting part of an otherwise pleasant Friday afternoon.

Craig Albert '79

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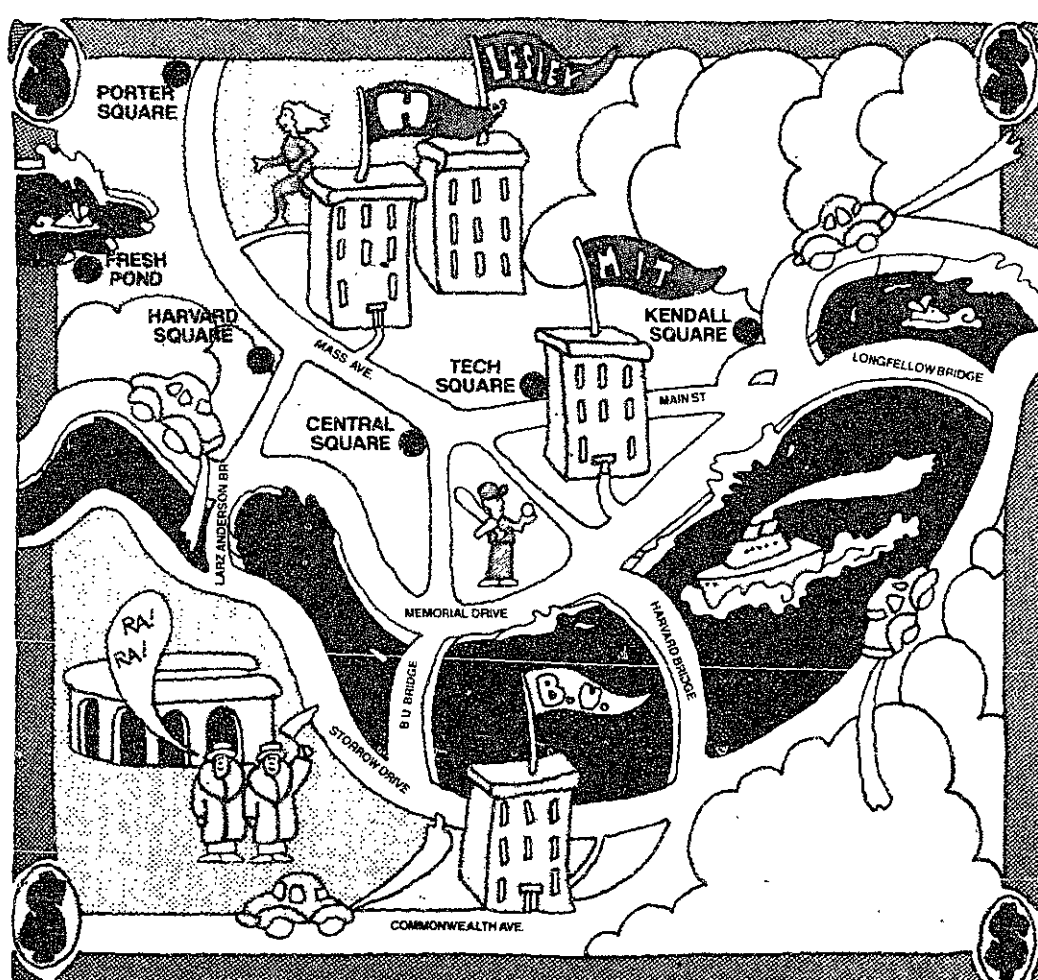
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The HP-25C is our keystroke programmable. It can solve automatically the repetitive problems every science and engineering

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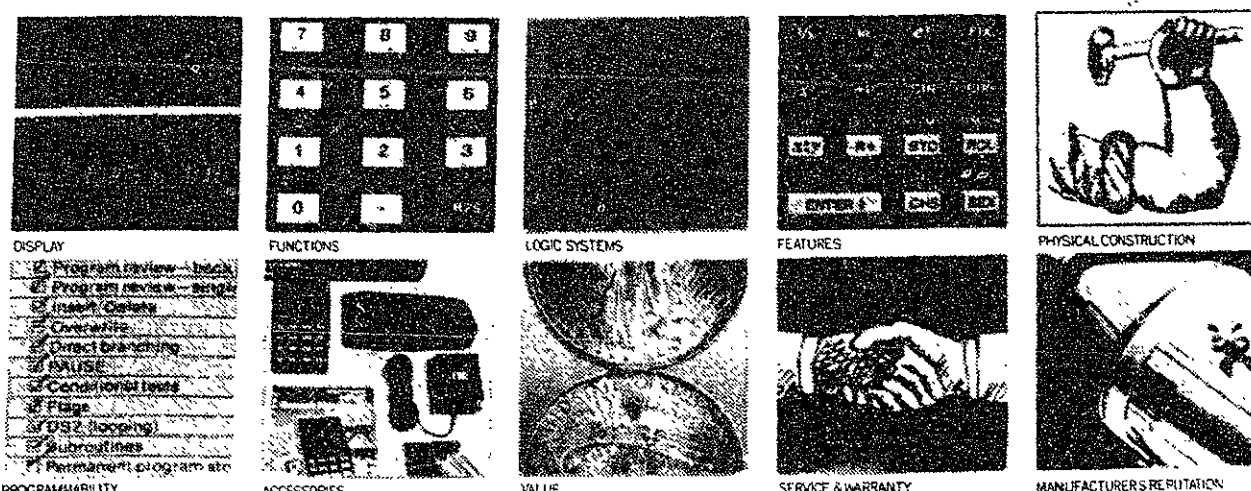
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- 6 selective clearing options give you flexible use of memories.
- Fixed decimal, scientific or engineering display formats.

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... the veterans walk ... cocky and confident, while the newcomers march about aimlessly ...

(Continued from page 3)

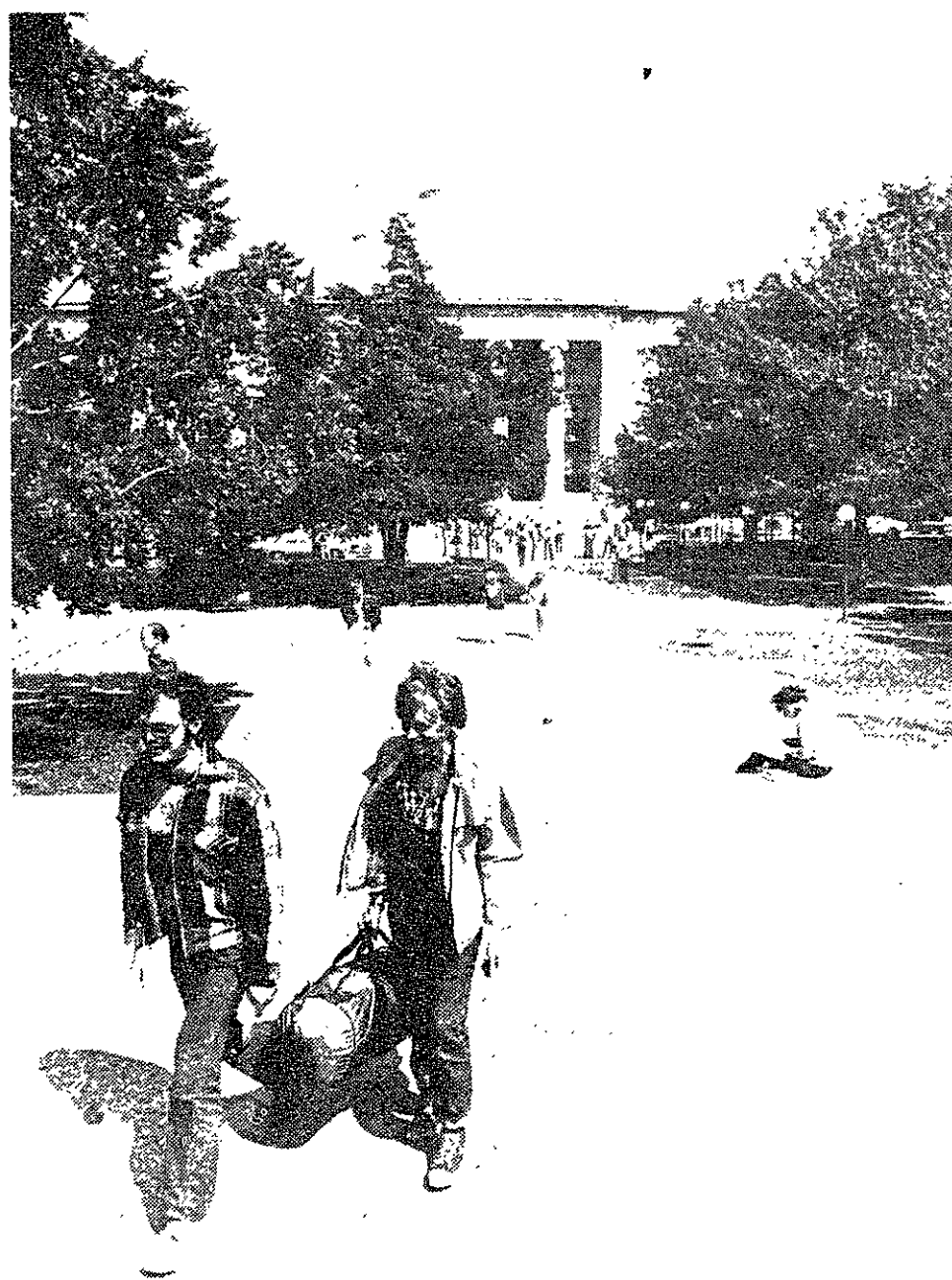
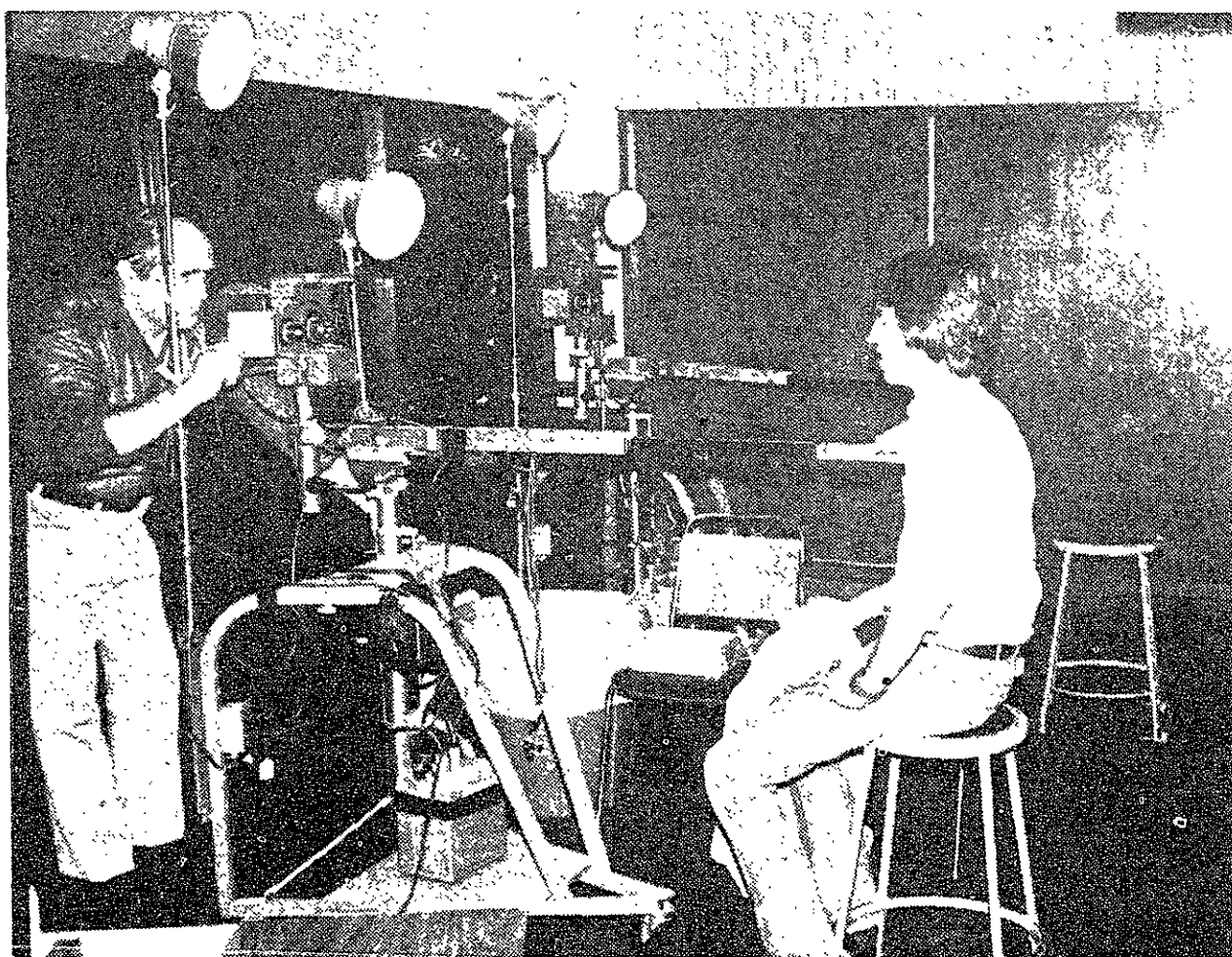
Lounge in the Student Center is fairly crowded, as is the Student Center Committee MidNite Movie in Lobdell. Anything hinting of a social event in the dorms is well-attended. This early emphasis on dormitories, not apparent in previous years because of the old one-day procedure, will cause a slow rush for some fraternities later in the week.

Friday, September 3. Today is Picnic Day, and fraternity people, while not allowed to display insignias or approach freshmen until this evening, can be found throughout the Student Center, playing pinball, watching TV, or simply wandering about. One can easily tell first-day frosh from second-day arrivals; the veterans walk around empty-handed, saunter around in jeans and T-shirts, cocky and confident, while the newcomers march about aimlessly, carrying catalogues and freshman packets like they were weapons and this the start of

basic training. Massachusetts Avenue is visited by about six hawkers, all selling "Freshman Samplers" — books of discount coupons — to anyone who walks by, and vendors of hot dogs, yogurt, ices, slush, and ice cream take advantage of the day's bright sunshine and 70-degree temperature to peddle their wares.

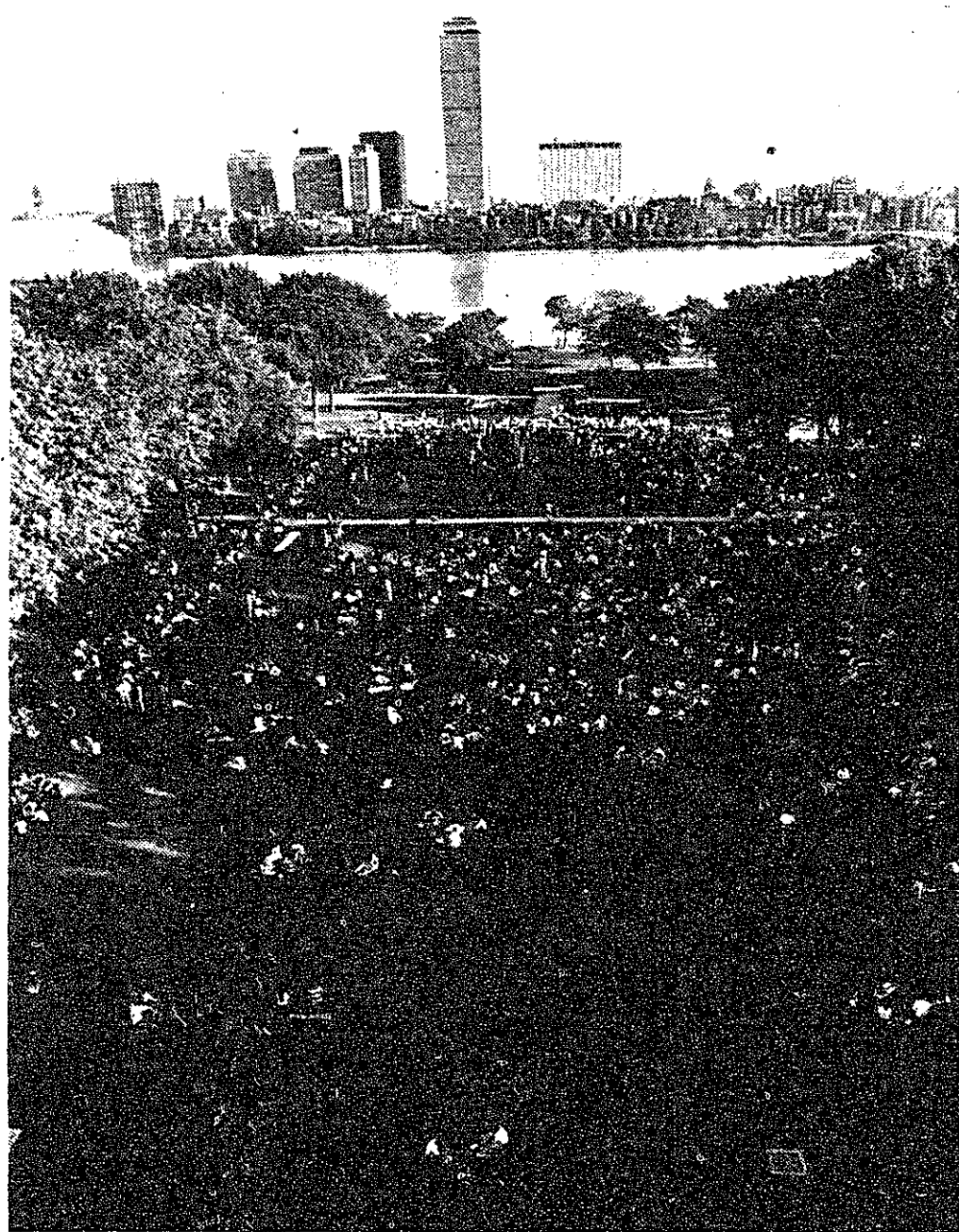
It's a much slower day than yesterday, with the exception of those working at the Clearinghouse computer terminals. This nifty computer program keeps track of all 1,050 freshpeople for the duration of R/O, noting where they sleep nights, pinpointing their whereabouts to within an hour's accuracy, sending messages, and later in the week keeping track of fraternity visits, bids, and pledges. The list of freshmen and their whereabouts is constantly updated, and fraternities will report in to the Clearinghouse at least every hour

(Please turn to page 8)



R/O





Today is picnic

(Continued from page 7)
during Rush Week.

Outside of the usual tours conducted of Boston, MIT, and various local sights, and associate advisor meetings for some freshmen, the highlight of the day is the Picnic.

By 4:40, the Great Court is jammed, both with freshmen (who pay nothing) and upperclassmen — partially fraternity people stocking up for the rush, partially dorm people taking advantage of the meal — most of whom pay \$4 for the privilege. Dinner consists of one helping of roast beef, salad with French dressing, corn-on-the-cob, rolls, and unlimited coke and watermelon. While vegetarian and kosher tables are tucked in on one side of the Court, only a few people eat from these tables.

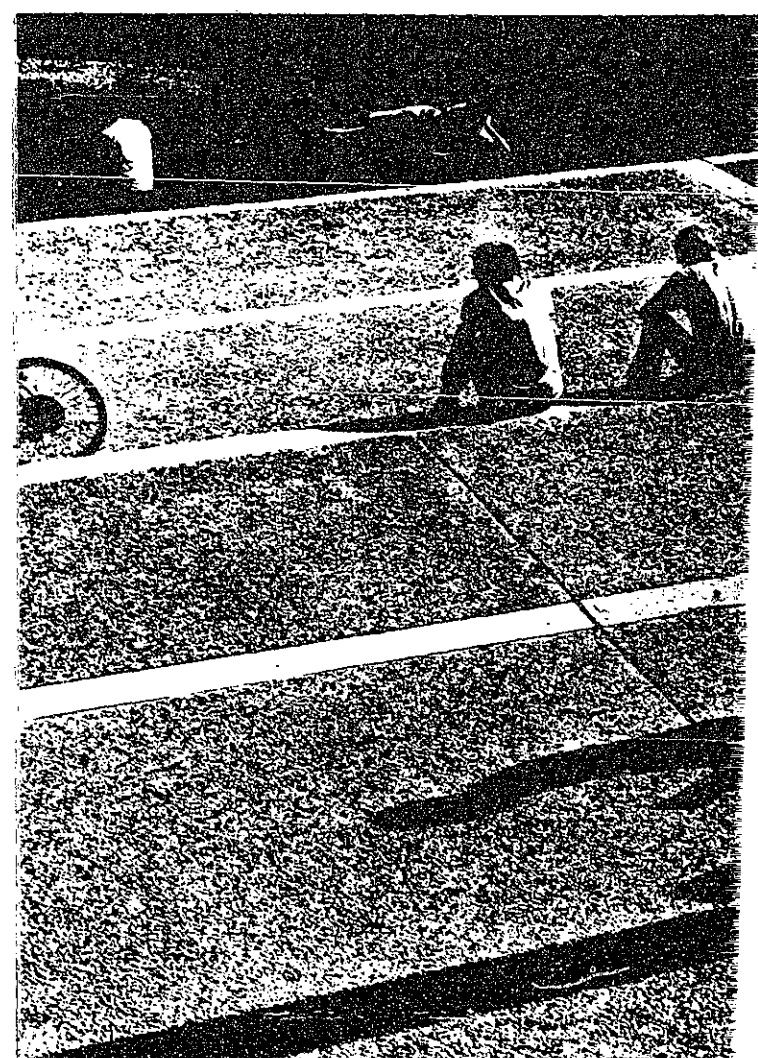
On the other side of the court, among hordes of happily munching people, sits "Reclining Figure," the much-publicized recent addition to MIT's outdoor art collection. Reaction is mixed to the gleaming bronze figure. Some think it's becoming; others dislike its intrusion into the large green grassy court; one observer is intrigued. "Looks like two turtles doing it," he remarks. No one presses the issue further.

The obligatory speeches by President Wiesner, Dean Eisenberg, the R/O, Interfraternity Council, and Dormcon chairmen, and Undergraduate Association President Phil Moore '77 start about 6:05, but the real activity is taking place on Memorial Drive. A campus patrolman and an IFC member help direct traffic as fraternities set up for the rush, only about 40 minutes away. Vans, sedans, and sports cars begin lining the drive, poised to receive freshmen and fraternity brothers. A number of fraternity upperclassmen loiter against parked cars, as though waiting for some kind of signal. Two or three huddles form on the Drive's grassy island, apparently strategy conferences. At about 6:45 a parade line has formed on the East side of the Court, made

up of representatives of fraternities in alphabetical order. The signal is given, and the parade begins, as hundreds of people silently file across the court, "sealing in" the freshmen with insignias still turned from the picnic and little sound. ZBT sets up its one small plot of ground by laying the fabric on and getting ready to inflate. At 6:55, Danny Nae IFC Picnic Chairman, rush. The signs flip a cheer rises from the re Court, and the cheer freshmen leads one to be a number of convention took a wrong turn and ended up here instead of York or Kansas City. Members furiously pump the balloon while an IFC uses a bullhorn to direct "ZBT, Theta Xi on the ADP on left, SAE, Lambda Center, PKT, PKS..." of local residents wandering the courtyard, perhaps for the Institute has finally run with crazies, but explanation calms them as they stay to watch the freshmen leave in the cars, but some, and all the upperclassmen, stay. ZBT's ballooning effort the structure is partially with the help of an catching flamethrower ZBT slogan can be above the crowd. Although won't try to fly the balloon it is ready to become after only about 12 or and the attention-getter — while proximity to prove to be the deciding how many visits frater the next three days, the farthest away, more visitors than at two Cambridge frats.

After the picnic, the largely deserted against four graduate student Lounge, but no one R/O Center is no longer with boxes, but only sit at three small tables

Photos page 7, top, lower right and left by Rich Compeau; center left by Mark James; center right by Tom Klimowicz. Photos pages 8-9, clockwise from top right, Rich Compeau; Tom Klimowicz; Gordon Haff; Mark James; Debbie McKechnie; Tom Klimowicz; Gordon Haff



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four people
bles looking

lonely after all the activity of the
past two days. Tonight is the
fraternities' night (and
Clearinghouse's), and dormitory
events remain low-key for the
most part, gearing up for the
weekend rush.

Saturday, September 4. Party
posters for frats and dorms now
appear everywhere — on Student
Center walls, on bulletin boards,
on lampposts, dormitory walls
and doors. Every one advertises
some sort of gimmick. There are
live band, a casino, a one-man
synthesizer orchestra, film shorts,
wine and cheese, pub, lounge,
dance, pancake, steak fry, ice
cream, cookout, fondue, punch,
and shish-kebab parties. "Did
you know that pancakes are
aphrodisiacs?" one poster ex-
claims.

The Institute Cable TV System,
newly installed in hundreds of key
locations, runs a revolving bul-
letin board of current freshman
events for most of the day. The
Sala is filled with all kinds of bag-
gage, from trunks and duffels, to
the usual suitcases and cardboard
boxes. About thirty bicycles sit in
the center of the room, just more
obstacles for a frisbee game being
conducted by bored APO
workers. Clearinghouse terminals
continue to print information,
and the APO people continue
their cheerfulness and helpful-
ness, although a bit wary after the
computer system "crashed" and
became unusable for an hour the
night before, at the height of the
rush.

What had been a reasonably fair
day turns overcast around 2pm,
as a light rain starts to fall. There
are very few frosh on campus to-
day, those remaining apparently
not interested in fraternities, and
content to join a volleyball or soc-
cer game outside, or tour a dorm
rather than wander through the
gloom to Boston.

In the evening, the Boston side
is fairly lively. A couple of frats
have posted large signs outside
their doors; a few have parties
outside, but most are content just
to watch and wait for people to
come in. Games of punchball and
frisbee begin along Beacon Street
and Bay State Road, attracting
small bands of people. The party-
ing will go on inside the frats until
late, after which the members set-
tle down to the serious business of
deciding which freshmen will
receive bids to join. These

meetings often last well into the
night, as bids may be tendered
any time after 8am Sunday; any
delay could mean losing a
freshman they really want, even
though no bids may be accepted
before Monday morning.

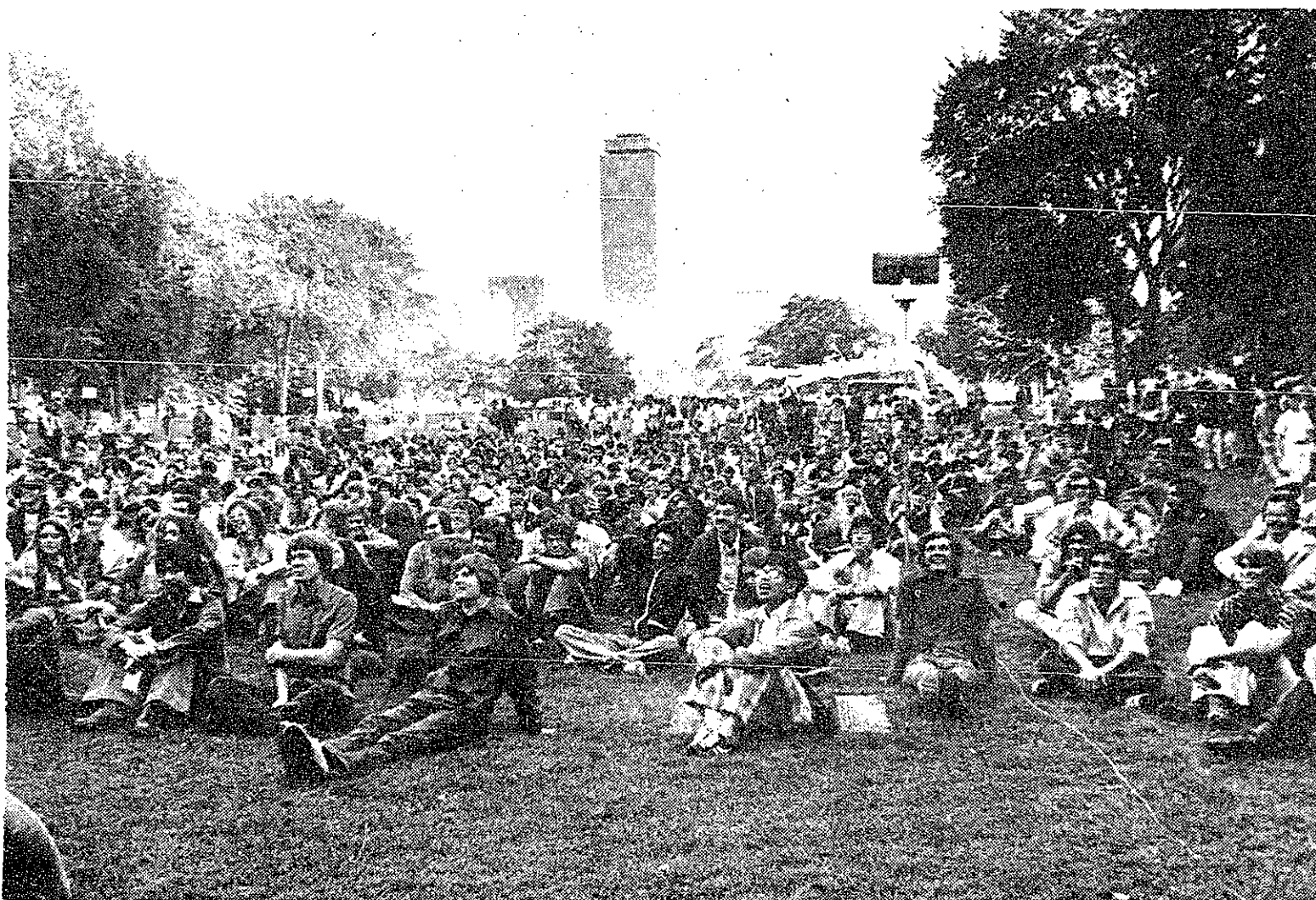
On campus, the fraternity and
dorm parties are very well-
attended, more by upperclass
types than freshmen; dorms will
not receive maximum attention
until tomorrow.

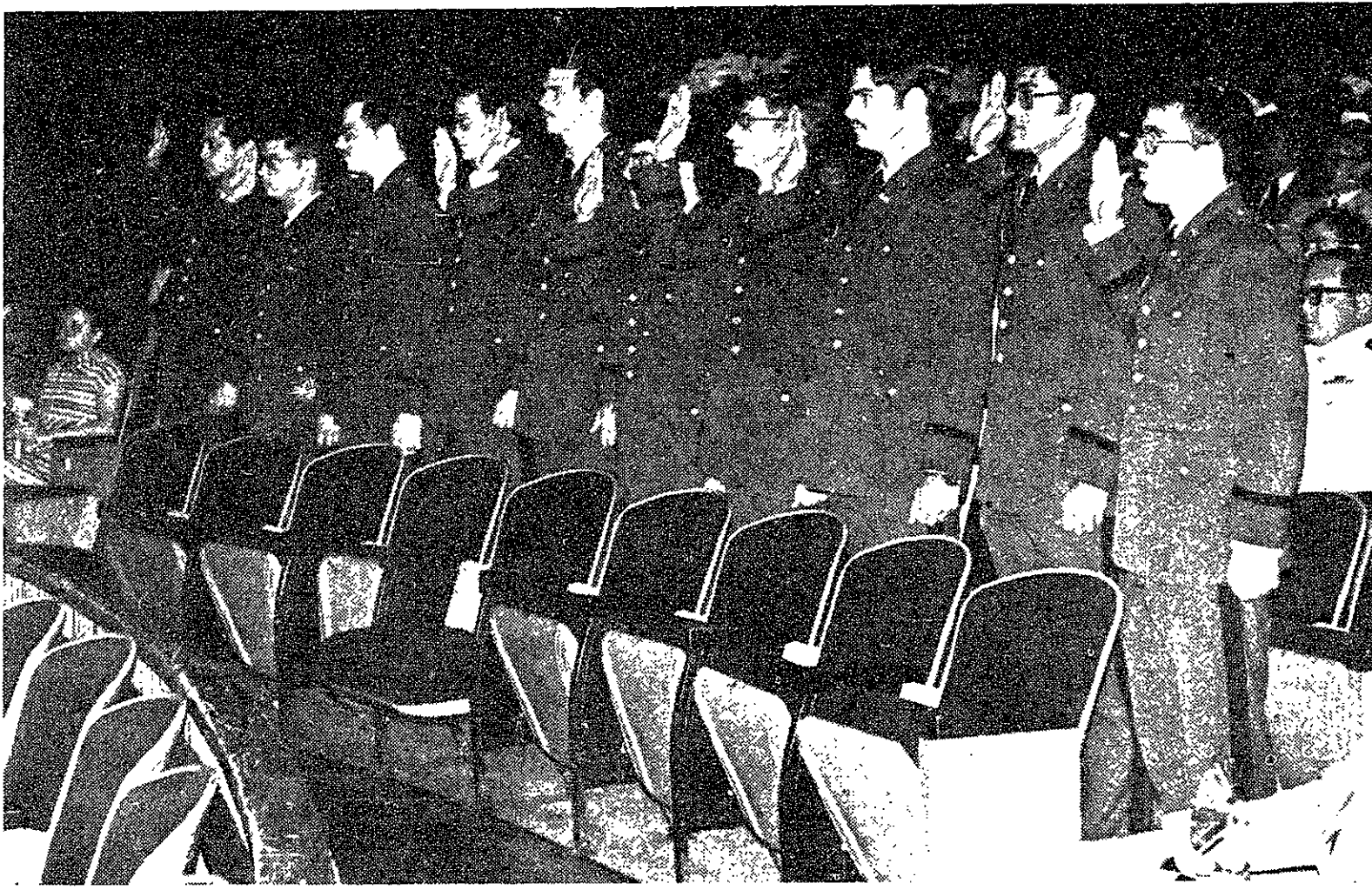
Sunday, September 5. Little ac-
tivity today. The fraternities have
made their decisions; the dor-
mitories begin their most serious
rush to get those who will not
receive bids and those who might
opt for a dorm over a fraternity
bid if it offers what they want.

The weather, changeable all
week, is overcast and rainy once
again, definitely a boon for the
dorms, and further adding to the
complaints of a "slow rush" by
frats. The clouds cause the cancel-
lation of most outdoor events
planned for today.

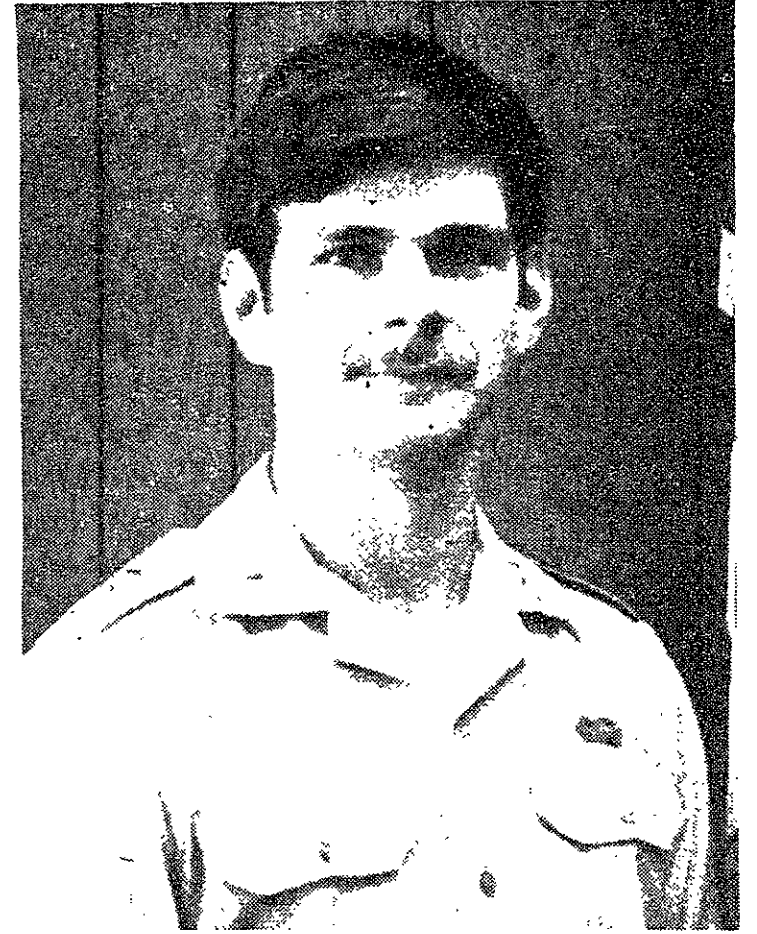
The R/O Center is down to just
three tables in the West Lounge in
an otherwise barren room, save
for a long table of handouts from
various campus organizations.
About twenty people gather in
Kresge Plaza to play unicycle
polo, the only attention-gathering
event on campus all day.

Monday, September 6. It's
(Please turn to page 13)





Class of '76 graduates are sworn in at Commissioning ceremonies in Kresge Auditorium



John Hagman '76 is a first-year medical student at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences at Bethesda, MD. Lieutenant Hagman is attending medical school on a full army scholarship, and receives full army pay and allowances.

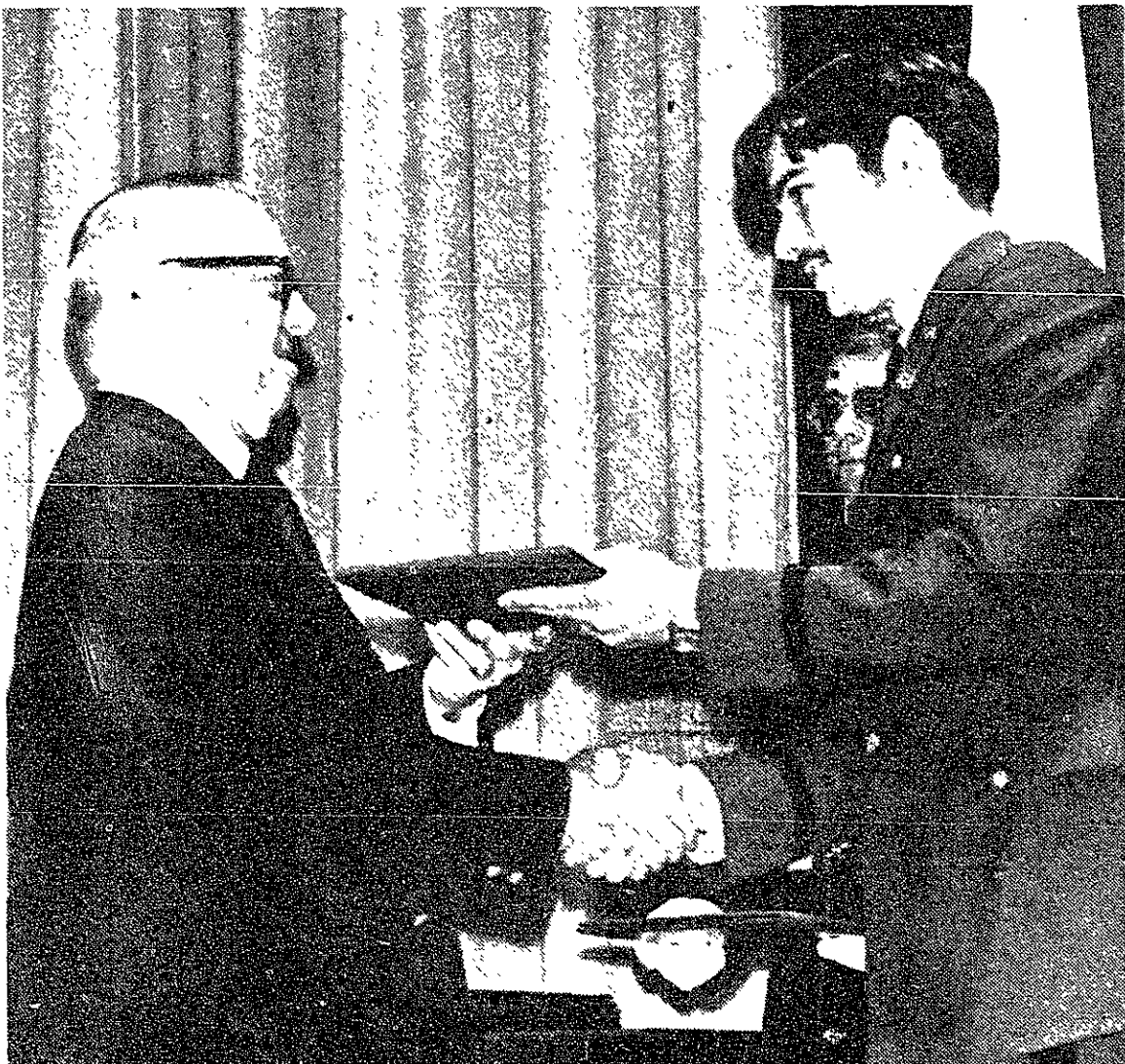


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Paul Robershotte '76 receives his commission from Major General Lincoln. Lieutenant Robershotte is on active duty as a graduate student at MIT, attending the Institute on an Army Fellowship.



Bruce Blankinship '76 receives MIT President's Award from Dr. Wiesner.



duly noted

thomas j. spisak

Ragtime

E. L. Doctorow

History is a form of fiction, the novelist claims. By its nature, history provides the sense of separation and objectivity needed to make narration believable.

Doctorow proves his thesis with each appearance in print. Each of his works depends on its historical context to give it form and definition.

Told by the young son of a fireworks manufacturer and peopled by luminaries such as Coalhouse Porter, a night club pianist turned revolutionary by the loss of his car; Emma Goldman, the feminist anarchist; and Henry Ford, the automobile manufacturer, as well as blighted immigrants freezing and whoring on the Lower East Side, and middle class manufacturers secure in their Westchester citadels, the novel moves to the syncopations of Joplins Maple Leaf and Tiger.

Doctorow's devices seem to work less well in *Ragtime* than in his earlier works. The novel as cinema, with easily defined scenes, traveling shots, close-ups, and few direct statements of the characters' thoughts or emotions, worked very well in *Welcome to Hard Times*, his Western novel, but is flawed here.

His use of "real" people as characters was successful in *The Book of Daniel*, the story of the Rosenberg case as seen through the eyes of their son, but fails in *Ragtime*. While the "made-up" characters in *Ragtime* are warm and believable, the historical characters (Emma Goldman, Henry Ford), come across as cardboard caricatures and props for the others.

For all its flaws in construction and characterization, however, *Ragtime* is very readable. Doctorow's phrasing and composition are uniquely masterful. (Bantam; \$2.25)

* * *

Shogun

James Clavell

In all his works, Clavell deals with the conflict between European and Oriental culture. He presents both without bias, balancing the sensitivities and savageries of each.

In *Shogun*, an Elizabethan English ship's pilot is shipwrecked on the coast of Japan during the intrigues leading to the founding of the last Shogunate. Because of his knowledge of ship construction and handling, and artillery tactics, Blackthorne, the Englishman, becomes the pivotal pawn in the struggle.

Since form is crucial to the Japanese, the barbarian pawn must be converted into a Japanese and samurai. Blackthorne's conversion is to Western eyes brutal and to the Japanese pragmatic. He is stripped of all dignity and self respect; his surviving crewmen are tortured and murdered to ensure his cooperation in his conversion.

After he is emptied, his captors fill him with their concepts of honor and duty. The watershed of his conversion comes when he is confronted with his crew after an eight month separation. While he has become what the twentieth century reader considers respectable (for example he bathes daily), his crewmen are presented as dirty, uncouth savages glorying in their own filth. The horror with which Blackthorne views them is a finely crafted treatment of Clavell's favorite topic.

The characterizations in *Shogun* are believable. Blackthorne's conversion is gradual and imperceptible enough to make it credible. The Japanese warriors are presented as varying mixtures of swagger and sensitivity. Bushido, the samurai code of honor, is itself a central character and is treated sensitively.

Clavell's craftsmanship is incomparable. His phrasing is effective and flowing. I recommend *Shogun* highly.

(Dell, \$2.25)

A new kind of silent movie

by Katy Gropp

Silent Movie
Mel Brooks

Mel Brooks' new film, *Silent Movie*, although not his best effort, is an entertaining movie that promises an evening of laughter for the entire audience. The movie does drag a bit in spots, but as a whole it

moves rather well.

The show is a silent movie within a silent movie. This absence of dialogue in Brooks' production makes the comedy routines just that much more effective. The audience finds itself pulling for the good guys (Mel Brooks, Marty Feldman, and Dom DeLuise), laughing at the bad guys (a com-

pany named Engulf & Devour) and having a great time.

The movie opens with Mel Funn (Brooks), a former director, searching for a movie company to buy his new screenplay. What follows is a series of comic situations in which Brooks attempts to recruit big name Hollywood talent for his film.

Appearances by Burt Reynolds, James Caan, Anne Bancroft, Liza Minnelli, Steve McQueen, and Marcel Marceau add color to the comic situations that follow. Performances vary in quality. Burt Reynolds' portrayal of himself is about what one would expect. Other actors, however, came across better. Minnelli has an interesting experience in a studio commissary when accosted by several suits of armor. McQueen, complete with a broken leg from a recent racing accident, still manages to start the world's first wheelchair Grand Prix, and he wins it (of course). Marcel Marceau utters the only spoken word in the entire movie (after a well done pantomime).

One of the more amusing scenes involves Mel Funn being driven by circumstances to return to his drinking. A short time later, he is seen staggering, obviously plastered, carrying a five foot tall bottle of Scotch. This scene is characteristic of the style of humor in the movie.

While the quality of the film does not equal the excellence of Brooks' earlier successes, the effective use of comedy skits and antic routines make *Silent Movie* a film worth seeing.

(Starring Mel Brooks, Marty Feldman, Sid Caesar, Dom DeLuise, Bernadette Peters, James Caan, Marcel Marceau, and Steve McQueen. 88 min.)



Tech notes for trekkies

by Kent Pitman

Star Fleet Technical Manual
Franz Joseph

If ever a book was destined to replace *The Making of Star Trek* as the bible of Star Trek fans, then the *Star Fleet Technical Manual* (TM: 379260) is it.

The book is prefaced with a memo from an army security officer. He explains that the regulations, diagrams, specifications and general information contained in the book were discovered in the form of a printout on an Armed Forces computer terminal. Attempts to trace the information to its point of origin — a radio transmission from "the United Federation Fleet Headquarters master library computer" — failed. The incident was written off as a hoax and records were released to the manual's author, Franz Joseph, for release

to the general public late last year.

The book offers an opportunity for an avid Trekkie to lose himself in mountains of fascinating details, and provides ammunition for hours of trivia contests between Super-Trekkies.

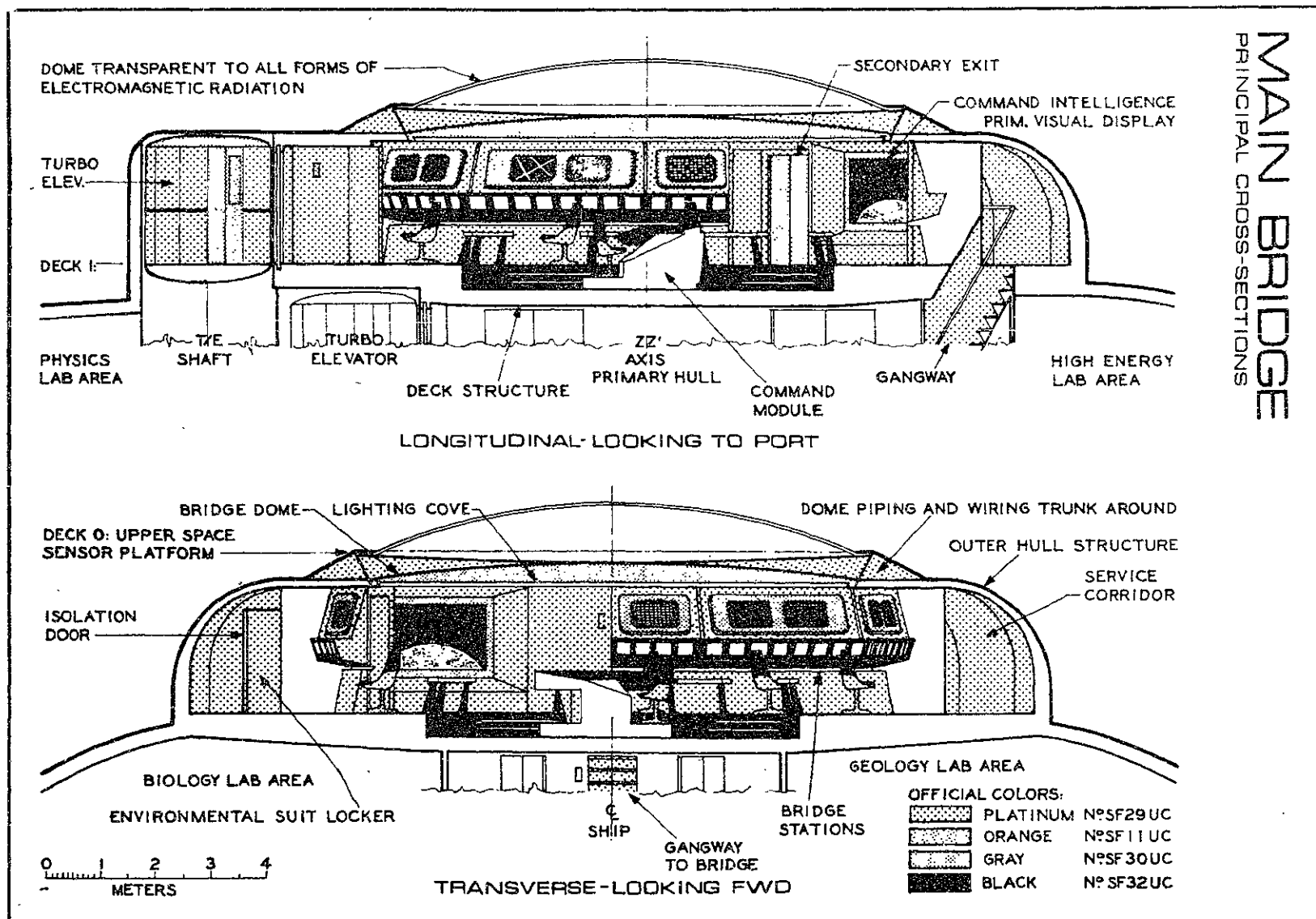
The book is extremely well researched. There is a high degree of correlation between material covered in the text and material in Star Trek episodes.

Nevertheless, some of the topics discussed in the manual are obviously contrived — such as floor plans for starships which never appeared in the series — and others, although they appeared in actual shows, seemed irrelevant. Items such as maps of the Federation's Central Park and a page describing the lyrette (a Vulcan musical instrument) seemed out of place in a technical manual and distracted attention

from the more important information. Fortunately, most of the book is not like this.

Another glaring problem is the tendency for all names and pictures to depict humans as the "typical" life form of the Milky Way Galaxy. This is not characteristic of a society in which all forms of intelligent life are treated as equal. In this respect the manual poorly reflects some of the goals of the Star Trek television series, but since it was written for humans, perhaps some bias is forgivable.

Despite these flaws the book is fascinating. Whether the reader is interested in a floor plan for his starship, a copy of the Articles of Federation, or just in hours of interesting reading, the *Star Fleet Technical Manual* is a must for every Trekkie's home library.



TM:379260-1

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AUTHENTICATED STARDATE 7408.08

notes

* Transcripts with Summer Session 1976 included will be available at the Registrar's Office the week of September 27.

* Grants of \$4,000 to women for graduate work in aerospace related science and engineering are being offered by Zonta International, a service organization of executive women in business and the professions. A bachelor of science degree preparatory for graduate work in some field of aerospace related science and engineering, plus evidence of exceptional ability and potential and commendable character are required. Awards are made to women entering or continuing a full-time graduate program who have been accepted at an institution offering accredited courses in the applicant's area of study. Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship Awards application forms may be requested from Zonta International, 59 East Van Buren Street, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

* "The Race for the White House," a two-week series of exhibits, films, and discussions exploring the nature of Presidential campaigns opens on Wednesday, September 15 at New England Life Hall, Boston. A free public service sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Library and the 16 home-based life insurance companies of Massachusetts, the program is open from 12-6pm weekdays and 1-5pm on weekends. Additional information may be obtained by writing to "The race for the White House," John F. Kennedy Library, 380 Trapelo Road, Waltham, MA 02154 or by calling 266-7660.

* Made up of women ages 18-35 from 15 countries, the YWCA residence is an experiment in responsible and sororal community living. In addition to room, breakfast, and dinner Monday through Friday, residency carries with it full usage of YWCA facilities, including gym and pool. All rooms are singles with community baths. For more information call 491-6050.

* Northeastern University will hold its third annual Women's Career Counsel-Rama, a complete exploration of personal alternatives, Sept. 10, 1976 at NU's Burlington campus. There will be group workshops on job hunting and self-assertion, individual counseling on career opportunities and a special presentation by Group Behavioral Specialist Professor Katherine Newman. For further information, contact Marilyn Wiener at 437-2423.

* The Registry of Motor Vehicles is now accepting applications for stickers for motorized bicycles. Applications for stickers, accompanied by a \$3 fee, may be submitted at the Boston Office of the Registry of Motor Vehicles or at any of the 34 District Offices throughout the State. Operators must be at least 16 years old and have a valid driver's license or learner's permit. They are subject to the traffic laws and regulations of the Commonwealth, and hand signals are required.

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* The Department of Humanities announces three new subjects in Literature for the fall term, pending approval by the Committee on Curricula. For fuller information contact either the Humanities Office (14N-409; x3-4441) or the instructor in charge.

21.127 Major English Novels
Tues. & Thurs. 11:00-12:30
14E-304

Professor Irene Tayler (14N-423;x3-4448)

21.131 Literature and Popular Culture
Tues. & Thurs. 12:30-2:00
14E-304

Professor David Thorburn (14N-306;x3-6950)

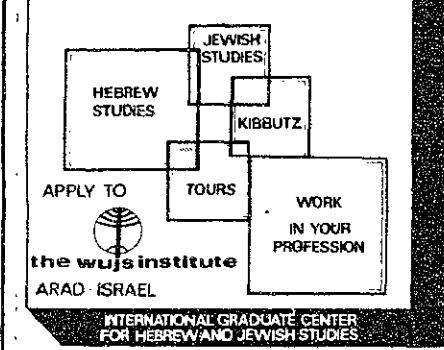
21.132 Autobiography
Tues. & Thurs. 1:30-3:00
4-156

Professor Barry Spacks (14N-420;x3-4452)

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ONE YEAR..!



* Auditions for the MIT Symphony Orchestra begin Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 7:30pm with an open rehearsal. There are vacancies in almost every section of the orchestra and all members of the MIT community are welcome to audition. Stop in at the Activities Midway or call Jim Heeger at 5-9454.

* A selection of 40 prints by photographer Jonathan Green will be on view in Hayden Corridor Gallery from Sept. 2 through Sept. 30. The exhibit, "Jonathan Green Photographs: 1970-1976," is sponsored by the Committee on the Visual Arts and will be open every day.

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The Free University wishes to identify qualified Iranian nationals who might be interested in working in such a context. Academic posts are currently available in the following areas: *medicine* (M.D. degree), *nursing*, *public health*; *physical and natural sciences*; *social and behavioral sciences*; *education*; *library science*; *Iranian studies*; *rural development*. Scholarships are also being awarded to qualified students who wish to continue their studies.

Interested persons are requested to send the following information to the North American office: name (first and last), university, field, and level. They should also note whether they are interested in a scholarship. Information should be sent to *FUI-North American office, PO Box 282, Rumson, New Jersey 07760*. Those who have already applied need do nothing further. Those planning to return to Iran this summer may also contact directly Mr. Firooz Firooznia, director, Manpower and Development Center, PO Box 11-1962 Aban Shomali St. Karim-Khan Ave., Tehran, 15, telephone 891521.

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Tom Klimowicz

R/O Week observations: a day by day chronicle

(Continued from page 9)

Labor Day, but no one seems to notice. The bidless freshmen make their dorm selections today, and close to 90 per cent will get what they want. Fraternities receive nearly 75 per cent of their pledges by late evening, and most frats report a very smooth rush, expressing pleasure with the quality of the class. Some complain that freshmen are more interested in dorms this year, but almost none seem to be in any difficulty. The new living groups are set by mid-afternoon, alleviating their own nervousness and the skepticism always associated with that "first rush."

One new twist in the dorm selection process is that freshmen who will accept overcrowded rooms get first choice, a way to keep everyone happy but also to jam as many people in the dorms as possible. The R/O Center is crowded again, and confusion, absent yesterday, is rampant again. Nobody seems to know exactly how room assignments work, and many freshmen are worried about winding up in a fifth or sixth choice dorm, or even worse, in "limbo" (without an assignment), while pledges and other changes are negotiated. Clearinghouse comes out with one interesting tidbit — the average freshman has visited 3.6

fraternities a total of 8.46 times.

Outside the Center, things are quiet, partially because of the holiday and partially because of the total exhaustion of the freshmen, R/O workers, fraternity and dormitory rushers, and everyone else involved with the process. Tonight all freshmen will receive a room assignment, with the exception of the folks in "limbo," and the Institute will settle down to the business of arranging the education of the newcomers, a process where the frantic, almost manic pace will not become apparent until the term is well underway.

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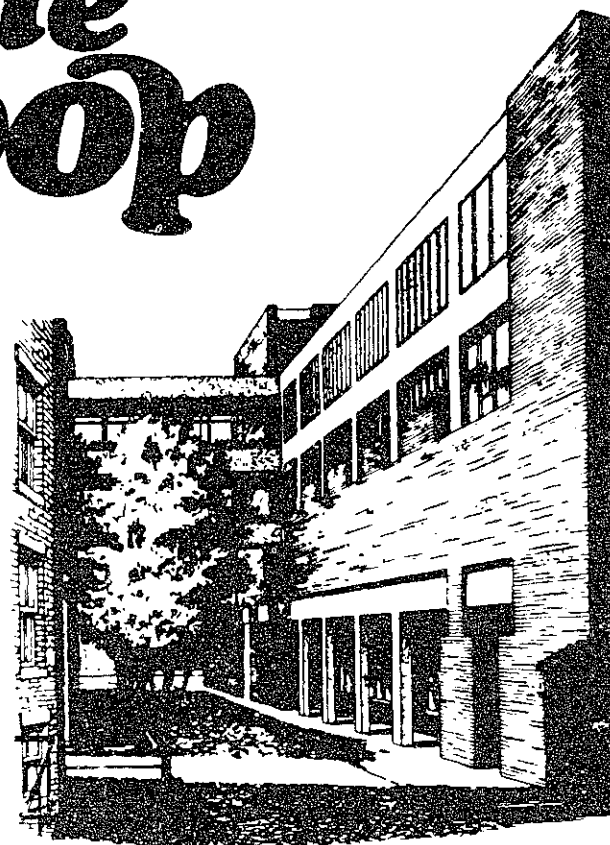
september offerings

- Coping Ethically in Modern Society:
An Election Year Critique
Undergraduate Seminar 024,
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00-12:30
Starts Sept. 16, Room 1-132
- Introduction to Catholic Beliefs
Thursday Evenings 8. p.m.
312 Memorial Drive, W-2A
Starts September 30.
- Catholic Sunday Liturgies,
in the MIT Chapel, 9:15, 12:15 and 5:15 p.m.
- Weekday Liturgies, MIT Chapel
Beginning September 16.
Tuesdays 5:05, Thursday 5:05, Friday 12 Noon

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Graduate Orientation '76

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10:30am - 1:00pm
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du Pont Gymnasium

Taped Workshops
Sala de Puerto Rico

12:30pm
Picnic in the Killian Court
Tickets \$1.50
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Information Center, room 3-136,
Graduate Student Council
Office, room 50-110
or at the picnic

2:00 - 4:00pm
Departmental Open Houses

Friday, September 10

11:00am - 6:00pm
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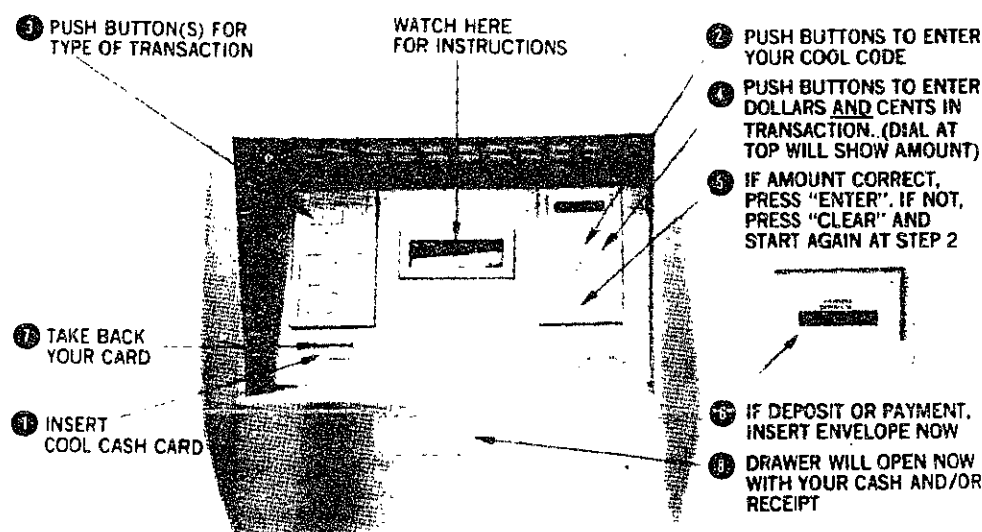
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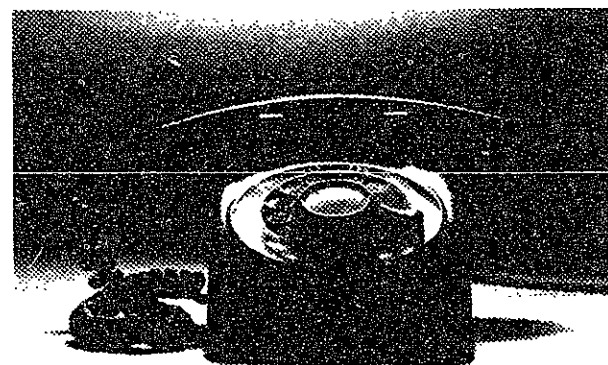
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Police Blotter

(The Police Blotter is a report written by the Campus Patrol on crimes, incidents, and actions on the MIT campus each week.)

Newly arrived members of the MIT Community are often unfamiliar with the problems that accompany living in a densely populated urban area. To help in easing the transition, we offer the following information and advice.

The Campus Patrol, with its Headquarters located in the Armory Building, second floor (W31-215), patrols the campus 24

hours a day, seven days a week, and is always ready to provide emergency police and ambulance assistance. Our officers, all of whom hold commissions as Massachusetts Police Officers, circulate constantly throughout the MIT environs.

MIT's campus is very much an open one. Students, faculty and staff come and go pretty much as they please, at any hour of the day or night, in an atmosphere of genuine freedom of movement. Few are those who find themselves required to produce their Institute identification. There are times however, when because of exigent circumstances, it becomes necessary for Patrol Officers to request some people to produce proper identification. Such requests are not often made, and only result from good cause for the protection of the lives and property of the community. Of course, since by their very nature exigent circumstances develop without warning, it's a good idea to keep your identification card handy when you're around the campus. This is especially true in the nighttime hours, or when you plan to be working unusual hours or in an out of the way place, or when you're planning to move expensive equipment from one place to another.

Never leave personal belongings unattended.

We wish we could know everyone by sight, but with 8,300 students alone (not to mention faculty, staff and visitors) that simply isn't possible, no matter how hard we try. So carry your MIT ID with you, and cooperate if an officer asks to see it. It's for the protection of everyone.

It is a sad fact that thieves abound in the Boston area. In order to keep yourself from becoming one of their victims, follow these simple suggestions: Never leave personal belongings unattended; unwatched arti-

cles invite the thief. This includes articles left in automobiles, whether the car is locked or not. Always remove articles from view — the trunk is the best place to leave them if they must stay in the car.

Wallets, pocketbooks, etc., are prime targets for the "hit & run" thief. They should stay with you all the time. Often people leave such items unguarded while leaving their rooms and offices for a moment or two — to visit a friend, go to a washroom, answer

a phone, etc., and upon their return find the valuables missing. Lock your doors, when you are leaving your room, office, or lab. Most of the thefts from such areas occur when the areas are unlocked. The doors and windows at MIT have locks — use them.

Take advantage of "Operation Identification," an effort on the part of many police agencies to convince people to mark their valuables in some distinctive, obvious fashion. To this end we

have available at our headquarters electric engraving tools, which are easy to use, and with which one can mark metal, plastic, glass and wooden objects with initials, designs, or numbers (such as your Driver's License Number). After marking your valuables, make a list of what was marked and record the initials, numbers, etc. used for this marking. Criminals do not like to handle easily identifiable items, as it increases greatly their chance of being detected, and makes "fencing" such items considerably more difficult.

We'll be glad to lend you one of these tools and with it provide you with window stickers which will identify your room, home, office, etc. as a place participating in Operation Identification. You probably have more "stealable" items than you realize, such as: TVs, stereo equipment, kitchen appliances, bicycles, etc. So think about it — you've got a lot to lose!

Distance, dorm rushing factors in frat pledging

(Continued from page 1)

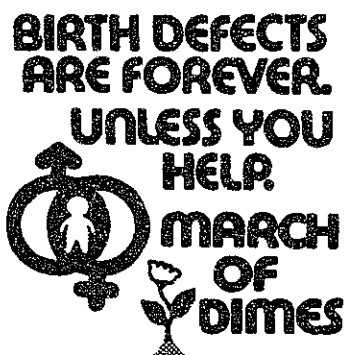
Visiting trends heavily favored the Cambridge fraternities; with only ZBT and Chi Phi leading any Memorial Drive frat. In terms of total persons visiting, only ZBT could crack the Cambridge houses' dominance.



Doug McLeod

An analysis indicated that a house's proximity to campus played a major role in attracting freshmen. Both McLeod and Dobos felt this was more pronounced with this year's class than in past rushes.

In an informal survey of the fraternity system, virtually all houses contacted by *The Tech* Monday night (22 of the IFC's 31) reported a smooth rush and expected to come in within one or two of their desired pledge total. Major areas of concern included the increased emphasis dormitories placed on rushing freshmen, a reluctance of many frosh to pledge a fraternity before receiving a dorm assignment, and proximity advantages of certain living groups — perhaps heightened by the changeable weather of the past weekend.



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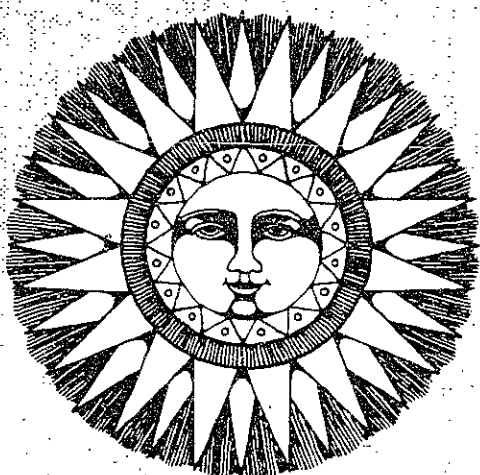
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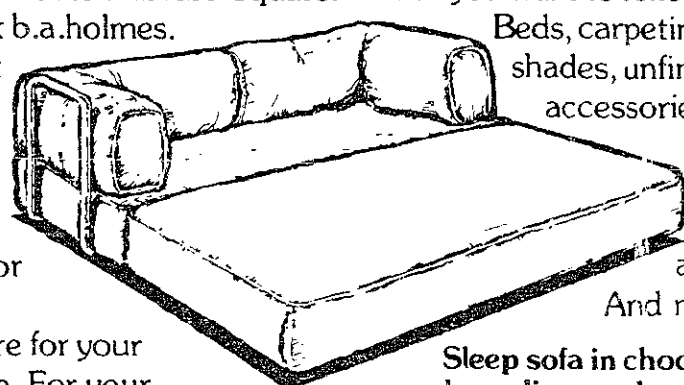
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sports

MIT team takes pole at final Pro-VW race

By David Schaller

Despite a slow start last weekend, the MIT Auto Racing Team showed that it could run with the pros in the final Professional Scirocco Race at Lime Rock Park, Conn.

Late delivery of a cylinder head for the MIT/Brookline VW Scirocco meant that the car was quickly put together and rushed to the track without any testing, arriving just minutes before the 45-minute qualification session. However, after a couple of laps to correct some minor problems on the car, driver Joel Bradley went back out and turned the fastest

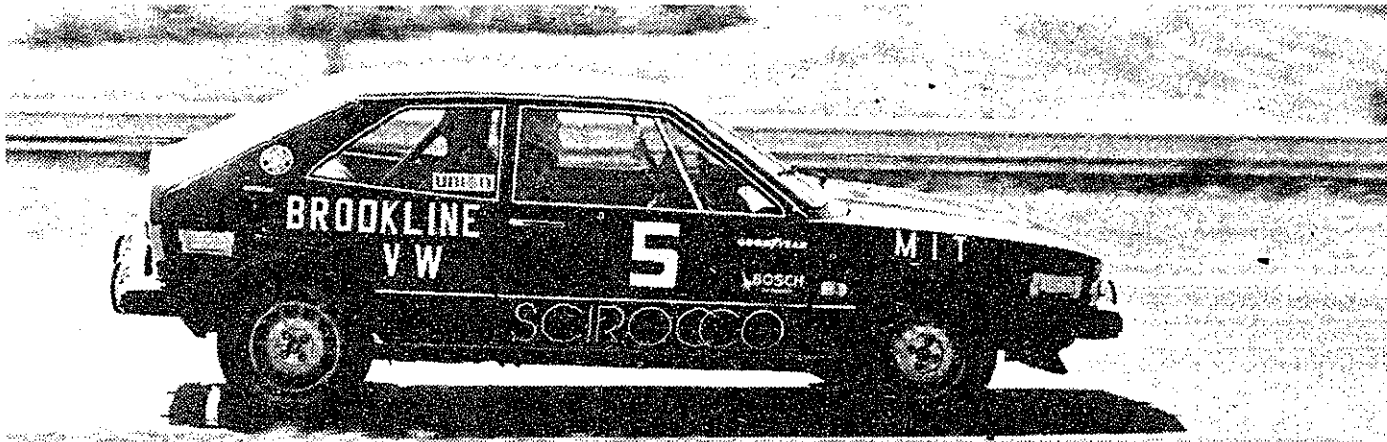
lap of the weekend, which gave him the pole and a new track record.

Before the green flag dropped, several cars had passed Bradley who then worked his way back to fifth place. As the race progressed the first five cars opened up quite a distance over the rest of the fifteen-car field. A heated battle between Bradley and the fourth-place car lasted to the finish.

Despite his best efforts in the corners Bradley was held off down the straights by the fourth-place car with its slightly higher speed, and the race ended with the MIT/Brookline VW entry in fifth place.

The 1976 VW Scirocco will now be prepared for the fifth annual Car and Driver Magazine's Challenge for Showroom Stock Sedans at Lime Rock, October 16th. The Scirocco has proven to be the car to beat after winning last year's race, and should do as well this year. The car's record, combined with Bradley's pole position start and third place finish at Challenge III, indicates that the MIT/Brookline VW team should be a strong contender this year.

Dave Schaller



After correcting a bent distributor shaft, the MIT/Brookline VW Scirocco proved able to run with the best at Lime Rock last weekend.

Woman's athletic director appointed

By Glenn Brownstein

Jane Betts, head coach of women's gymnastics and tennis and assistant professor at Valparaiso University, has been named the new Director of Women's Athletics at MIT, Director of Athletics Ross H. Smith announced this week.

Betts' appointment followed a nationwide search for a replacement for assistant professor Mary-Lou Sayles, who will become the director of the MIT Dance Workshop. Over 50 candidates were reviewed in the search, and eight were interviewed on the MIT campus by a committee chaired by Professor James W. Mar of the Aero/Astro Department. Betts was the unanimous selection of the committee.

In addition to developing the MIT women's athletic program in parallel with the men's (MIT currently has eight women's varsity sports), Betts will coach women's gymnastics and will serve as assistant director of athletics and as an associate professor.

Betts' teaching experience includes three years of work at an Indianapolis high school from 1962-64, followed by eleven years of teaching and coaching at Valparaiso. She was instrumental

in establishing women's tennis as a varsity sport at the Indiana University, and compiled winning records in both tennis and gymnastics last season.

In early July, Joan Rosenkrans was named as the new women's basketball coach, replacing Ross Hunter, and was appointed to an assistant professorship. Rosenkrans had coached women's varsity basketball, cross-country, and track and field at Hall High School in Hartford since 1970.

In addition to her high school efforts, Rosenkrans was the Springfield College training camp manager for the US Women's Gymnastics Team preparing for the World University Games in 1973.

In early August, Jill Gilpatric was named MIT Director of Sports Information, succeeding Peter Close, who had held the position for the past 15 years. Close gave up the position to become a full-time instructor in physical education and continue as head coach of cross-country and assistant coach of varsity track.

Gilpatric has been associated with the sports information department for the past year, previously serving as Close's

secretary. She will be responsible for publicizing the activities of MIT's 29 intercollegiate varsity teams and will work with coaches in preparing seasonal press brochures for MIT athletic teams.

Deborah Clum, assistant coach of field hockey, basketball, and softball at Sandwich (Mass.) High School, is another addition to the Athletic Department. She will coach the women's softball team and hold the post of instructor. Clum earlier served as women's field hockey and tennis coach at Winchester (Mass.) High.

Clum graduated from Springfield College in 1974 (also Professor Rosenkrans' *alma mater*), where she was chosen the outstanding woman athlete.

sporting notices

Anyone interested in watching the MIT/Brookline VW Racing Team in action at the Car and Driver Challenge V on October 16th should stop by the MIT Auto Club booth at the Midway tonight. The Auto Club is also organizing rides for the U.S. and Canadian Grand Prix races.

Tom McLennan, pistol coach, dies

Thomas P. McLennan, coach of the MIT varsity pistol team, died last Wednesday, Sept. 1, following surgery at Choate Memorial Hospital in Woburn.

McLennan, who would have been 52 on Labor Day, coached MIT to two National Pistol Championships in his ten-year career. In that time nearly a dozen of his students were awarded All-American status.

In addition to his coaching duties, McLennan taught marksmanship to several thousand students and employees in physical education and special classes, and spent several summers working with the MIT Day Camp teaching firearms safety and rifle shooting to hundreds of children.

McLennan came to MIT in 1965 following more than 20

years in the US Air Force where he had been base range officer and officer in charge of marksmanship training at Hanscom Field. He set a number of individual match records and coached service unit pistol teams to high finishes in military competitions while in the service.

Funeral services for McLennan were held Saturday.

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